



Wednesday, June 4, 2025

Public Budget Hearing and Regular Meeting of the New Lebanon Central School
Board of Education – WBH Library 7pm

Attendance: (P=Present A=Absent)

Mike Brutsch	__P__
Bill Buckenroth	__A__
Racheal Chubb	__P__
John Kalisz	__P__
Rob Long	__P__
Alex Polacinski	__P__
Sharon Powers	__P__

Also in attendance:

Chris Harper	__P__
Matt Klafehn	__P__
Josh Noble	__P__
Danielle Brewster	__P__
Corey Brown	__A__

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order by Board President Brutsch at 7:00pm and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board President Brutsch made the motion to enter into executive session at 7:03pm to discuss the budget. Board member Powers seconded. 6 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained.

Board Vice President Kalisz made the motion to appoint superintendent Harper as clerk pro-tem. Board President Brutsch seconded. 6 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained.

Board President Brutsch made the motion to enter into public session at 7:12pm.

2. PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING

A. Presentation of the Revised 2025-26 Proposed Budget

B. Board Vice President made the motion to close the public budget hearing. Board member Long seconded. 5 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstained (Polacinski).

Board Vice President made the motion to approve item 2C. Board member Powers seconded. 5 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstained (Polacinski).

C. Motion to adopt the revised budget -RESOLVED, that the proposed budget of expenditures of the New Lebanon Central School District for the 2025-26 school year in the amount of \$15,427,799 and for the purposes shown in the statement of estimated expenditures adopted by the Board of Education be and the same hereby is approved and the amount thereof shall be raised by a levy of a tax upon the taxable property of the school district, after first deducting the monies available from state aid and other sources as provided by law.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Michelle Bruns- AIS teacher for 27 years, it undermines goals if we cut teachers, RTI/AIS supports 25% at WBH, we will over burden classrooms, urges to reconsider.

Bridget Rank- Students are a priority, these are difficult decisions, make cutting teachers a last resort, if we stretch them further the students will suffer, relationships will suffer.

David McGuinness- Wishes we did public comment first, reserve funds for buildings and allocate that and not cut teachers, put that on the ballot, understands increasing needs, need more communication from the board and superintendent, better ways to get information out.

Mary Middleton- understands the difficulty but don't cut people, it will negatively impact students.

Becky McLaughlin- owns a small business in the community and fellowship is important, teachers are most important in a school, cutting teachers is cutting the best part, will have larger class sizes, will lead to more issues.

Julie Fraad- Which teachers are cut? What school? Could save money by having one bus run, save gas, was a teacher for 35 years, don't cut the heart and soul.

Mikala Squires- Benefitted from AIS, wouldn't be woman she w/out the woman back there, they made her an ilumini, we will lose kids if we can't keep up, cut janitors, buses.

Susan Tipograph- house here since 1993, voted yes, doesn't want to see cuts, hears teachers had suggestions but troubled no public conversations.

Schuyler Gail- Moms in Oregon would can food for kids in the 40s-50s, can we do things like that now?

Brady McKeon- has all the help he needs from teachers, won't be the same if they get fired.

?- can we look at bus run consolidation, do we need a SRO? Can we share other resources with other districts.

Glenn Giumarra- we're in a precarious position, feedback loop with staff, parents, wonders if this is best place for kids, HS spread thin, can't fill some positions, music program is good, people will wonder if they need to be part of this school and community, feels like they're on shaky legs, more communication is needed, wants to retain teachers and attract kids.

Stacy Breads- where was everyone 6 months ago? She's been here watching the board work hard to create a budget. People who aren't showing up are the ones voting no.

Board President Brutsch- We've been working since January on the budget, building reserves are for buildings only, buses are bonded to keep levy even. Board Vice President Kalisz- he's received more emails this week than in the last 6 years, he appreciates them. There are social media grenades online, and that's not how you reach the Board.

4. BOARD OPEN DISCUSSION

A. June 17th Budget revote reminder 12-8pm at WBH

B. Next Board of Education Meeting July 9, 2025

6. ADJOURNMENT

Board Vice President Kalisz made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 pm. Board member Long seconded. 6 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly McGivern

Kelly McGivern, District Clerk